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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/853,104 | 05/10/2001 | James R. Richard | 01478-P0006B | 5802 |

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EXAMINER

HOEY, ALISSA L

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
| 3765 | |

DATE MAILED: 05/23/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Application No. 09/853,104 | Applicant(s) RICHARD, JAMES R. |
| Examiner Alissa L. Hoey | Art Unit 3765 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 May 2001.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Disposition of Claims

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacDonald (US 3,070,102).

MacDonald provides an elongated member integrally formed of a thin flexible plastic material (figure 6). The elongated member defining a handle portion (10) and a head portion (6). A cleaning portion attached to the head portion of the elongated member (12 and 14). The cleaning portion comprising a plurality of cleaning projections protruding outwardly from the head portion of the elongated member (figures 5 and 6). Further, MacDonald provides a backing material having an adhesive on a first surface adhered to the head portion of the elongated member and having a plurality of projections protruding from a second surface thereof (figures 5 and 6). The head portion of the elongated member is wider than the handle portion of the elongated member (figure 1, identifiers 6 and 10). MacDonald fails to teach the head portion conforming to the tongue and roof of the mouth and the device being a tongue cleaning device.

It would have been obvious for the head portion to be pressed with the tongue against the roof of the mouth conform the head portion to the shape, since the head member and handle member are comprised of a flexible material and nothing prevents

it from conforming to any shape it is put in. It would have been further obvious to have used the toothbrush to clean the tongue, since toothbrushes are well known in the art to be used as tongue cleaning devices along with the teeth of a user.

3. Claims 4-6 and 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacDonald in view of Porcelli (US 5,678,273).

MacDonald provides a hygiene device as described above. However, MacDonald fails to teach the plurality of projections comprised of fiber loops or loop portions of a hook and loop fastening system. Further, MacDonald fails to teach an antiseptic or antimicrobial compound carried on the cleaning portion. Porcelli provides a plurality of projections comprised of fiber loops that can be loop portions of a hook and loop fastening system (column 2, lines 28-41). Porcelli also provides an antimicrobial compound carried on the cleaning portion (column 2, lines 56-67).

It would have been obvious to have provided the hygiene device of MacDonald with the loop projections and the antimicrobial compound of Porcelli, since the loop projections provide a swooping function that acts to capture food particles and other debris whereas cut bristles do not.

Conclusion

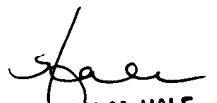
4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Wagner, Rosenblood et al., Micciche, Heisinger, Jr., and Hamilton are all cited to show closely related hygiene devices.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alissa L. Hoey whose telephone number is (703) 308-6094. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30)Second Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Calvert can be reached on (703) 305-1025. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-0758 for regular communications and (703) 308-0758 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.

alh
May 16, 2002


GLORIA M. HALE
PRIMARY EXAMINER
PRIMARY EXAMINER